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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/536,797	11/03/2005	Yasunobu Okada	1035-589	4492
23117	7590	10/02/2007	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC			DEVI, SARVAMANGALA J N	
901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ARLINGTON, VA 22203			1645	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/02/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/536,797	OKADA ET AL.	
	Examiner S. Devi, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1645	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/03/05.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-15 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Lack of Unity

- 1) Claims 1-15 are under prosecution.
- 2) The instant application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R 1.499, Applicants are required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

- I. Claims 1-6, drawn to a method for inhibiting cell death comprising administering an anion channel-forming peptide to cells under lactacidosis.
 - II. Claims 7-15, drawn to a cell death inhibitor comprising an anion channel-forming peptide.
- 3) Inventions I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons. The special technical feature of the first claimed invention, for example the method of claim 1, is a method for inhibiting cell death comprising administering an anion channel-forming peptide to cells under lactacidosis. However, such a method was already taught in the art at the time of the instant invention. For instance, Nabekura *et al.* (*Jpn. J. Physiol.* 51: Suppl. S127, #74, 2001 – Applicants' IDS) disclosed a method of inhibiting cell death comprising administering the anion channel-forming VacA protein of *Helicobacter pylori* to cells under lactacidosis. Similarly, a cell death inhibitor comprising an anion channel-forming peptide was also known in the art at the time of the invention. For example, Cover *et al.* (*J. Biol. Chem.* 267: 10570-10575, 1992 – Applicants' IDS) taught the VacA protein of *Helicobacter pylori*. Therefore, the special technical features of inventions I and II do not define over the prior art.
- 4) This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features as these species do not share a significant common structural elements. Two anion channel-forming peptides of the claimed invention are: (A) VacA protein of *Helicobacter pylori* (see claims 5 and 11); and (B) Glycine receptor variant peptide

(see claims 6 and 12). Each anion channel-forming peptide species identified above requires a separate and non-coextensive text search. Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13-15 are generic.

5) Applicants are required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. M.P.E.P § 809.02(a).

6) Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600, AU 1645 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be transmitted via the PTO Central Fax number (571) 273-8300, which receives facsimile transmissions 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

7) Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAG or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAA system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (in USA or CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

8) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to S. Devi, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0854. A message may be left on the Examiner's voice mail system. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7.15 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. except one day each bi-week, which would be disclosed on the Examiner's voice mail system.

Application/Control No. 10/538,797

Art Unit: 1645

September 2007

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Siew, can be reached on (571) 272-0787.

SD
S. DEVI, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

September, 2007